

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 SAM-01 SSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 AID-05

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R 112133Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2274

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2226

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, PGOV

SUBJECT: RUMORS AND COMMENTS ON CABINET CHANGE

REF: (A) SANTIAGO 2155; (B) SANTIAGO 2158

1. SPECULATION ON MAKEUP OF NEW CABINET, NOT EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK, CONTINUES INTENSE. SANTIAGO PRESS APRIL 11 CARRIES REPORT THAT "SUPER MINISTER" FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WILL BE CREATED AND THAT DECREE LAW SPELLING OUT HIS POWERS HAS ALREADY BEEN SIGNED (CF REF B). OTHER PRESS ITEMS SPECULATE ABOUT ENTRANCE OF MORE CIVILIANS INTO TOP GOVERNMENT JOBS, PARTICULARLY IN SUCH ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT AREAS AS MINISTRIES OF PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING, AND MINING, CENTRAL BANK, AND CORFO. PRESS NOTES THAT RESIGNATIONS INCLUDE NOT ONLY ALL MINISTER S AND THOSE WITH

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CABINET RANK (HEAD OF ODEPLAN, CHIEF OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE,

HEAD OF CORFO), BUT ALSO ALL PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED
EXECUTIVES IN CENTRAL BANK.

2. IN REMARKS TO REPORTERS APRIL 11, MIN ECONOMY LENIZ
STATED THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN GOC'S ECONOMIC POLICY
BUT THERE WILL BE INTENSIFIED EFFORT TO CONTROL MONETARY
EMISSION AND INFLATION.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MEDIA SPECULATION AND GOC COMMENT
ON CABINET CHANGES HAVE BEEN LIMITED PRIMARILY TO POSSIBLE
NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES, WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF CONSIDERABLE
BACK-STAGE MANEUVERING AND MANY RUMORS ON INTERNAL SECURITY/
HUMAN RIGHTS AREA (SANTIAGO 2133). GOC BUILDUP CONCERNING
CABINET CHANGE AND FACT IT CAME AS SURPRISE TO EVERYONE HAS
CREATED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC INTEREST AND EXPECTATION, AND
OCCASION WOULD BE IDEAL TO ANNOUNCE SOME NEW DEPARTURE IN
THIS AREA AS WELL, PARTICULARLY SINCE GOC SECURITY PRACTICES
HAVE BEEN SO CLOSELY LINKED TO GOC PROBLEM IN AREA OF
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

4. LACK OF EVIDENCE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN CABINET
OVERHAUL FOR NAVY CINC AND JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERINO, WHO
HAS THEORETICALLY BEEN IN CHARGE OF SUPERVISING ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS FOR THE JUNTA, PROVIDES ONE MORE INDICATION OF HIS
RELATIVE ECLIPSE WITHIN GOC POWER CIRCLES.
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